Manchester FREE PRESS

5p

THE NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

SNAIL

THE BITTER PILL

LAST YEAR Roche, the huge Swiss drug firm, made £24m profit out of the NHS. It has been accused by the Monopolies Commission of making 'excessive and unjustified profits'. When Roche refused to supply information about its costs it was accused of 'excessive secrecy'.

The US Justice Department is trying to bring an anti-monopoly suit against Beechams, one of the biggest British drug firms and the 4th largest in the states. Like Roche, Beechams has refused to supply details of costs, research and advertising - on the orders of the British government.

The taxpayer who subsidises high drug profits through the NHS has no chance to limit the firms or get value for money: the drug firms have too many MPs on their payrolls. In this month's FP we examine the methods and profits of the drug firms.

Lucky 17

INSIDE STORIES

Alf & Ada

Can it really be true? Turn to p.4.

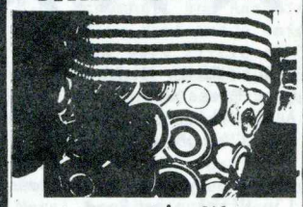
Play bus

Manchester mums get hours of precious peace. p.6.

What's afoot?

Three quarters of our children have deformed feet. Why? How can you prevent it? p.11

New new film reviews



This month's films p.14 & 15.

News

Who are Manchester's military men? p.4.
On the move for Equal Pay.p.16.

And lots more inside

Reply

In the last issue of FP we printed a letter from Mrs. Joyce Turner of Stockport, who complained about the service she got at her local health centre. She said that it usually takes 2-3 days to see her doctor and only then if you took a morning appointment. She wondered how much work a GP does since her own GP does 4 morning sessions & alternate evening surgeries.
The short answer is that Mrs. Turner's doctor is no exception. A survey conducted in the 60's showed that GPs worked an average 38 hour week. As for the claim that doctors are underpaid, well a bone idle GP can't get less than £100 per week & if he's prepared to do a bit he can earn twice as much. Where he makes his daily crust is in the extras. He gets:

* £310 for being on call at night, plus 28p per patient after the first 1,000 (£420 per yr for the average GP), plus £3.00 for every night call made. He gets all this from the NHS even if he uses a deputising service to handle his night calls.

* £21 for visiting a woman in the last month of pregnancy & within 36 hours of the birth. As 95% of births are handled by midwives, it's money for jam.

* Up to 45p for vaccinations. As doctors often hire a nurse in the afternoon to do these injections, he makes a profit.

* £1 for every cervical smear.

*Plus bonuses for being in a development area, for employing an assistant, for having a trainee GP, & for the trainee GPs car.

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FROM OUR READERS

So this is Mecca

Dear Free Press,
I was not at all surprised to learn from your last issue that Eric Morley's apparent concern for charity is just one big prestige event to increase profits. Mecca is certainly not a charitable organisation. Staff wages & conditions are evidence of that. During my own employment at 2 Tiffanys, I experienced some of the worst working conditions possible. The nature of employment & conditions of work depended entirely on the manager & could be changed at will. I was initially employed as a drinks waitress, but was forced to be a barmaid, food waitress, receptionist, buffet assistant, cloakroom attendant & box office girl with no alteration in pay. In such an industry of high staff turnover & without union organisation, any complaints were likely to meet with the sack. Although I was employed on a 5 day week basis, when Head Office decided to streamline staff hours, I was given 2 choices - work 6 days a week or quit. Mecca is concerned with profit, & people, like charity shows, are only tools to this end.

yours sincerely,

Pat Dixon,
Rusholme

Editor's Note:
You will no doubt be pleased to know that Eric Morley boasts: "Who works harder or longer hours than our management & staff? You have only got to ask them & they work all hours of the day or night".

Festival faults

Dear Free Press,
The publicity for the Grand opening of the Manchester Festival must have misled thousands of Mancunians into attending a hotch-potch of 4th rate or poorly presented entertainment in the City. A tight-rope walker, at the perilous height of 6 ft, who gave up after one step, and an 'amazing jelly lady' that must have amazed at most a dozen people close enough to see it, were typical. Sure, it was great to hear rock in Crown Sq., but the P.A. system was pretty feeble. The valiant cloggies in the next square, who lacked even that had to rely on visual effect alone since their music was totally inaudible.
The willingness of Mancunian to go into town for the opening night indicates the fantastic potential for street entertainment in the city. The tragedy was seeing so many people raring to go but through Granada's poor handling of the affair, with so little to watch or do. We must use the streets of Manchester more often for concerts etc but make sure they are organised by people with experience in staging open air festivities.

Sincerely,

Roger Cooke
Chorlton

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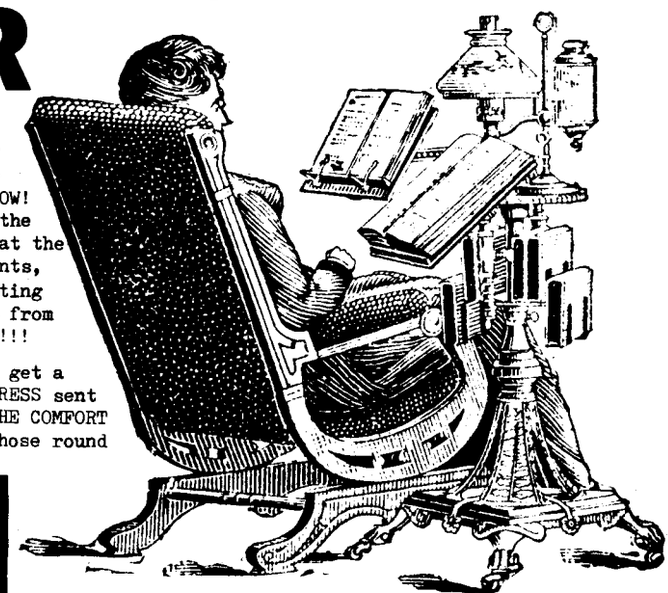

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During the recent Manchester District elections, a disaffected voter crossed out the names of the official candidates & wrote in 'Nixon,Ehrlichmann,Cross,Haldemann, Poulson & Deane'. Said Trafford Returning Officer,Bertram Finch:'Er, I think it's possibly a protest vote against the establishment'.

Harry Hyams, sugar daddy of all property developers, worth £27m. started by buying a company just up the road in Oldham. Hyams is most famous for owning Centre Point, the huge London office block which has stood empty for 9 yrs. It seems old habits die hard. He recently won a court order to evict his former head forester from a tied cottage on his 600 acre Wiltshire estate. The court was told that there were already 3 empty flats,2 empty cottages & an empty 4 bedroom cottage on the estate.

Watergate now comes in games - darts boards with Haldemann as bull's eye & jigsaws of the White House crawling with insects. What kind of games would our own scandal make

Bryants,the big Birmingham building firm which is leading the fight against 'inflationary wage demands' has announced a 300% profit increase in the 6 mths to last Nov. Bryant built houses rose from £8,000 to £I2,000 during the same period. Bryants have been told by the employers federation that they won't be affected by Stage 2 of the govnmt's anti-inflation policy.

While doing their part-time stint down at Westminster, MPs can, and often do,get pissed at any one of the six bars, which are not covered by the licencing laws, on North east Federation Brewery beer at a cost of 11p a pint!

'nuff said

Bason Street blues

IT TOOK 13 bailiffs and 20 policemen to end the five week occupation of the Bason Pasco engineering factory in Stockport last month. At the time only five of the 30 men were inside on a night rota duty. Although they left the building, the dispute still goes on in defence of the 11 men (several union activists) who were threatened with redundancy. While the men continue to picket the works in Green Lane, support is growing for their struggle among the traditionally militant engineering workers in the area.

Comparisons with the marathon Roberts Arundel strike of 1967-8 are inevitable. The decision to send in the bailiffs was made in the small town of Siler City in North Carolina, the same state where the Roberts company was based. Siler City is the headquarters of Forrest Paschal Machinery Ltd., the company which bought Bason from the Midlands firm of Gibbon Dudley last October. Forrest Paschal is in the same line of making brick handling machinery. It has manufactured machines in the States under Bason patents. Just before the bust, Bason's managing director J. B. Hayes went to North Carolina for a top level board meeting. The tough line, consistent with union-bashing US tactics, was probably helped by the fact that Basons was one of the factories which held out longest during the Manchester sit-ins last year.

The use of bailiffs was the last straw in a long line of American-inspired decisions aimed at trying to smash the trade union shop at the works- just as Roberts Arundel tried to introduce changes without union consultation. We have yet to see whether Forrest Paschal has its own Robert E. Pomeranz, the autocratic and paternalistic boss of Roberts Arundel who thought he could ride rough shod over the British trade unions.

As at Roberts Arundel, the union has been consistently ignored. The management have refused to discus the introduction of a work-sharing scheme during the recent economic depression in the industry. The present dispute came to a head when five men were sacked. They withdrew the notices under union pressure and then asked for 11 redundancies because of a drop in work. Usual practice is for volunteers to come forward. But the management changed its mind and put up their own 11 names - including the convenor and two shop stewards. Basons were clearly trying to get rid of the militants in a typical high-handed way.

While this has been going on the men at Basons were kept in the dark about the change of ownership of the company. Records at Company House in London show that Basons has not had a very good trading position in the past few years.

In 1970 the firm made a loss after tax of £42, 069. This rose to £78,283 in 1972. These were offset by grants from Gibbon Dudley. Yet during the same period the pay of the top director rose from £3,511 to £4,655 - a jump of more than 30%. The chairman's salaray rose nearly 50%. Since the change of ownership, recorded briefly in the Financial Times on October 10 1972, the company has filed no details of its owners, directors or profits.

A6 farce Idris speaks

The day before Idris Owen, Stockport's well known builder and part-time MP, announced that the A6 diversion was back in the melting pot, a story to the same effect appeared on the front page of the Evening News first edition.

It was mysteriously dropped for all the other editions that day. The original story came from Alderman Edward Lowe, Tory shadow spokesman on highways, and an ardent campaigner for an end to the A6 farce.

According to him, a letter from the Department of the Environment said that the proposed route had been scrapped because of spiralling costs. The story was checked out with our Idris who had been looking forward to a bit of good publicity for a change by revealing the story himself. It's all wrong, he said, and the next day he got a nice big splash saying that the proposed A6 diversion had been scrapped because of spiralling costs. Instead, the route and three others were being put forward to find out the views of the public.

It now seems likely, by the way, that the final route will be the one through Offerton which was first suggested in 1920. Some unkind persons have suggested that the cock-up over the A6 has been deliberate so that Stockport could take over the blighted land to build some more luxury flats through housing associations.

Code on noise

A report out last month showed that 50 per cent of British workers in heavy industry are being slowly deafened by noise. The blame is squarely placed on the employers who, in many cases do not provide ear-defenders and who are ignoring last year's official code of practice on noise. The code is expected to be the basis for new legislation but most employers will be totally unprepared for it.

The report, by noise experts R.M. McConnell and Associates, also says that trade unions are doing very little to protect their members from the dangers of high noise levels in factories.
A friend of ours tell us that one of the worst factories he worked in was Metal Box where the men had to lip read or use sign language to communicate at all.

Manchester's military men

FUNNY PLACE Manchester University Dept. of Military studies. It covers a multitude of sins.

Last November we had Brigadier 'Mad Mike' Calvert (see FP II) bouncing round Ireland & telling a Belfast court of the wicked deeds of Paddy Kennedy, Republican MP for Central Belfast. Kennedy was charged with conspiracy & unlawful association with the IRA. According to Calvert, Kennedy told a press conference that he represented the IRA. According to the film of the press conference, Kennedy did not answer the relevant question but told the Daily Telegraph reporter to ask a member of the Republican movement & pointed to Joe Cahill, the Belfast IRA chief. Kennedy was acquitted.

Exactly what Calvert was doing in Ireland is something of a mystery. Calvert said that he was in Ireland to do some 'field work', presumably for his proposed encyclopaedia of guerilla warfare. He claimed that

he was a Research Fellow at Manchester University. This was not true since his lucrative Hallsworth Fellowship (worth up to £90 per week plus travel expenses) in the Military Studies Dept. had run out over a month before the press conference took place.

A more plausible explanation for Calvert's visit was his admission to the court that after the conference he went to Lisburn to tell General Ford, General Officer commanding Land Forces, what had happened.

Calvert isn't the only character to use the Military Studies Dept. as a cover for more sinister activities.

BOSS spy

What about South African whizz kid, star Police cadet, Michael Morris? Young Michael was sent across here by BOSS (the S.African secret service) to spy on nasty people who dare to question the goodness of apartheid. He went to the banned African National Congress & the Committee for Freedom in Mozambique & Angola offices in London to try & find out about their organisation in Britain. Unfortunately his talents don't match those of his hero, James Bond, & he was suspected immediately. His cover? - a research student at Manchester University in the Military Studies Dept.

Head of the Military Studies Dept., Michael Elliott Bateman isn't thought to be wild about these two men.

He'll have a chance to have words with Calvert next month as they're both among the star turns at an Oxford Conference, excitingly titled Recent Revolutions in Theory & Practice. No such luck with Michael Morris though. After his cover was blown he took the next plane out.

Sex probe non shock

A DAILY MAIL hack, frantically ringing round for quotes from anyone who had ever met Lord Lambton, eventually got his 92 year old aristocratic aunt and gingerly mentioned the subject of young Tony's resignation. "Is it over a woman?" the old girl asked, unabashed. "From which family does she come?".

THE HULMEITES AT A FESTER-VILLE
BY JEFF FAIRCLOUGH.
AFTER THEIR HORRIFIC ADVENTURES ON MARS, ALF & ADA RETURN 'POST-HASTE', ONLY TO FIND THE WHOLE CITY IN THE GRIP OF A 'NIGHT-MARISH HORROR: — THE MANCHULMIAN FESTER-VILLE
THE BEE ALL & END ALL
DAILY FREEP EXPOSES FESTERVILLE
FOR 17 DAYS AND NIGHTS, THE MANCUNIAN STREETS WILL BE FULL OF A VAST ARRAY OF CHEATS, SWINDLERS, ROGUES, VOYEURS, CAPITALISTS, GIGOLO'S AND 'GET-RICH-QUICK' ENTREPRENEURS.
LET'S TAKE A LOOK ADA, LOOKS LIKE COUNCIL DOIN' SOMETHIN' FOR T' FOLKS AFTER ALL!
THRO' THE STREETS WOUND A VAST POLLUTION PARADE!
2000 FT. FILE OF TALKING RUBBISH
TRAVEL SELNEC INFLATION WAY
POLLUTION DEVICE LTD
ANTI-POLLUTIONISTS UNABLE TO BREATH FOR SHIT
LISTEN TO YOUR LOCAL RADIO BLAH — MORE RUBBISH PER HOUR THAN ANY OTHER
KEEP HULME UNTIDY!
OIL
MEANWHILE, DOWN IN CROWN SQUARE, OUTSIDE A MASSIVE BEE-HIVE A HUGE SWARM OF PEOPLE GATHERED FOR THE OPENING BY THE MAYOR — THE FIENDISH MR. BEE L. ZEBUB
BUZZ
QUEEN BEE
BEE L. ZEBUB
FRIENDS, BEES MANCUNIANS, GI ME YOUR HONEY ..ER, MONI & LET THIS BE A SUCCESS FESTERVILLE MY FRIEND & I..... SO CAN ALL BE
THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN — HONEYCOMBED THROUGHOUT BY DEVIOUS FRAUDS!
INCREDIBLE TAX-EVADING JELLYMAN
SUPER BEE
RENT BILL
A 'RAT-ROAST' (DONATED BY MOSS SIDE RANCHES LTD.) IN CROWN SQUARE.
BEE JAM
PUKE!
RAT BUTTIES £1.00P
SPORT — 'DASCHUND BOOTING' — A STRONG HULME SIDE, MANAGED BY SIR MAT BUZZ B
HULME
BEESWICK SLASHERS 2

Like it or lump it

STOCKPORT MP, Idris Owen strikes again. This time it was Eric Heffer's anti-lump bill which received the full power of this man's mighty brain.

Heffer spoke well about the faults with the lump: how it leads to bad workmanship, tax evasion(estimated at anything up to £200m a year) even greater numbers of accidents, friction between workers, non-payment of national insurance contributions and the ignoring of welfare, health and safety regulations. The long term effects for the building industry were dire because the lump prevented the training of apprentices.

None of this disturbed Idris. Fresh from a special briefing by the building employers, he said that he too didn't like the lump because it caused indiscipline. But it was still necessary to use the lump to keep up profits, and profits, as everyone knows are 'a reward for economy'. Idris went on to complain that 'if the rain comes and it may only be a drizzle...those with a guaranteed week come off the scaffold and out come the cards'. It is precisely because lump workers are forced to lay bricks in the rain that you get shoddy workmanship.

Heffer warned that lump companies 'have made exorbitant profits on the basis of speculative building with the use of lump labour. It avoids overheads of all kinds. The result is that in many cases people are getting a high priced and shoddy product'.

Idris Owen is a Director of Omar Investments, the building firm which dominates Stockport. Omar Investments uses lump labour.

It is not known when Idris Owen last climbed scaffolding in the rain.

Open day protest

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY'S first Open Day in living memory, as part of the official 'Festival', was intended to be a prestige event celebrating 70 years of liberal education. The Students Union however, refused to co-operate with the festivities and protested against the nature of the University's investments in S.Africa by means of posters & leaflets.

The night before, the campus had been protected by several dozen security guards who helped arrest 2 students for allegedly fly posting and painting.

A CLOCKWORK BEE
BEEBOP DANCE HALL
ZZZZZ
CLOCKWORK BEE BOYS
STREET THEATRE!
ART EXHIBITIONS!
LEEDS
HULME
MUFC
SALFORD
BEE TRENDY
A FASHION SHOW
TIGHTROPE-WALKING ABOVE THE MANCHULMIAN WAY!
PRINCESS ROAD SPRINT
THE EXCESSES OF THE FESTERVILLE ARE TOO MUCH FOR THE 'POOR' PEOPLE, & ALF & ADA ARE SORELY 'BEE-MUSED'!
ALF! STOP BUZZING AROUND AS IF YOU'VE GOT A BEE IN Y'BONNET
CRIKES, LASS LOOK AT THIS MESS
MEANWHILE, IN PICCADILLY, NEAR TO THE BUZZ STATION, THE BEE COUNCILLORS ARE GETTING READY TO MAKE A BEE-LINE TO THE COSTA BRAVA WITH THE FESTERVILLE LOOT!
GET A MOVE ON!
FESTERVILLE CASH CONVEYORS
BUZZ ST
BEE L. ZEBUB
ALF! — YOU MUST DO SOMETHING TO STOP THOSE ROGUES FROM MAKING OFF WITH ALL THAT 'BEE-AUTIFUL MONEY'!
ALF SEES THE LIGHT!
ALF! ALF! ALF! ALF! ALF! ALF! ALF! ALF!
SWAT THOSE BEES, LADS
ALF PROGRAMMES HIS HULMANOIDS (FROM THE MARTIANS!) FOR THE STRUGGLE!
ALF & THE HULMANOIDS 'BEESIEGE' THE BEE GANG & HIJACK ALL THE LOOT!
YOUR HONEY OR YOUR LIFE..... AR! AR!
DAMN SOCIALISTS!
VICTORIOUS, ALF RIDES THROUGH THE STREETS OF HULME — DISTRIBUTING THE WEALTH BACK TO THE PEOPLE!
ALL HAIL! ALF!
MORE STILL!

BUSY BUSES

Can play bus cope with play centre shortage?

IF YOU'RE a harassed mum who's tied to the house by a 3-5 year old child & you live in Kennett House, Salford Brow or Faraday Av., help may be just round the corner. A mobile play centre, badly disguised as a psychadelic double decker bus, has started visiting your area 3 or 4 times a week. It's run by the Manchester Council for Community Relations who got govmt. finance under the Urban Aid scheme to set up play centres in areas of Cheetham where none already exist. One centre was opened 2 years ago but no other premises have been found since. Hence the bus.

Facts

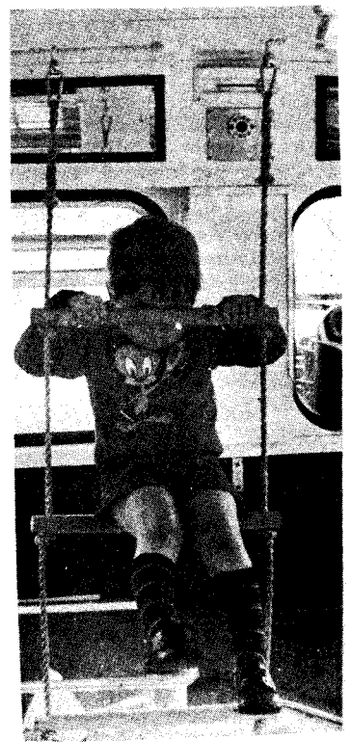
Each session, lasting 2-2½ hrs, costs 10p per child & less if more than one child of the same family comes or if the family is very poor (based on information from Health Visitors). It's run like a normal nursery with one person continually in charge, but space only allows 20 kids per session. Preference will be given at first therefore to older kids (4-5), or those specially recommended (i.e. by Health Visitors).

The bus was donated by Selnec and is driven to & from the site by bus drivers in their spare time. Most of the materials and equipment were donated by local firms but the renovation work is owed largely to the TGWU & AEUW. It would have cost about £2,000 to buy, fit and equip this bus but because of the gifts - materials & labour, only cost MCCR about £200.

You'd hardly believe that a bus could hold a sand-pit, slide, ladder, bricks, paints, easels, tables, chairs, storage cupboards, heaters & a toilet and still leave enough room to move, but it can.

Freedom

Mothers obviously love the idea. It offers a few vital hours of freedom while their kids, who would normally have to play on the streets, are safely guarded. Mums were apparently wary at first but news travels fast & when Freep investigated operation Play Bus on its 2nd visit to Faraday Av., there were about 20 kids & hardly a mum in sight. One we did manage to trap, before she raced off to enjoy some peace, said she thought it was marvellous but wasn't too too keen on being woken up at 7a.m. by her son who was dying for his "school bus" to come. Most of the kids seem to like it but because they've never been to a play school before, a few tears are inevitable. The most distressing moment for our intrepid photographer was disentangling himself from a loving maid who'd adopted him as her personal climbing frame.



Permanent?

Similar schemes are planned by other organisations but converted buses can never solve the desperate need for sufficient permanent play centres. Manchester has only 70 registered play groups - in general any group running for 2hrs or more per day has to register. These groups can take only about 2,000 kids.

Council plans

The Social Services Dept. were also given a bus by Selnec but theirs isn't ready yet - Direct Works are renovating theirs! This bus will concentrate on 3 areas at a time & stay there for 3-6 months while mothers are encouraged to set up their own permanent play groups. Such groups can apply for a council grant to cover rent of premises, improvements, equipment and one full time salary. Social Services has £16,500 to spend on setting up new play centres. Their bus will only be used as a means of encouraging this.

FREEPOEM

Lonrho the Tories - O ! : to be sung to the tune of Green Grow the Rushes - O !

I'll sing you one-o,
Lonrho the Tories-o!
What is your one-o?
One is wealth and privilege and ever more shall be so:

I'll sing you two-o,
Lonrho the Tories-o!
What is your two-o?
Two, two, the shareholders, clamouring for dividends;
One is wealth ..... etc

Scored for eleven(plus) raucous voices obliterating a solo counter-revolution ary tenor, the final chorus reads (or sings) :

Twelve for the Tory Minister;
Eleven for a house in Hertfordshire;
Ten for the tax evaders;
Nine for a rumpus on the board;
Eight for the eight directors;
Seven for a compensation fee;
Six for the Cayman Islands;
Five for Ogilvy and Ball;
Four for Tiny Rowlands;
Three, three, the Third World;
Two, two, the shareholders, clamouring for dividends;
One is wealth and privilege and ever more shall be so....

FRELIMO leader visit

MANCHESTER CONTINUES its long history of close association with African nationalists with the visit in June of Marcelino dos Santos the leader of the Mozambique Liberation Front. The first post-war, Pan-African Congress was held in this city, and the delegates who attended that conference now comprise the leaders of the independent African states.

But not all of the countries in Africa are independent. The last remaining colonial power is Portugal, which despite numerous United Nations resolutions refuses to relinquish its hold over Mozambique, Angola and Guine.

This year marks the 600th anniversary of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance, and the celebration of this event is being used by the Portuguese and British governments to renew their pact of mutual friendship and support. This support is crucial to Portugal with its army of 200,000 men fighting to suppress the independence movements of FRELIMO in Mozambique, MPLA in Abgola and PAIGC in Guine.

Portugal, the poorest nation in Europe, could never afford to spend 50% of its budget on defence without the military and financial support Britain and the other western powers provide.

Despite a provision in the Treaty to the contrary, NATO arms are being used by Portugal outside of the European arena in its African wars: these include US napalm and British guns and planes.

British economic support is also vital for Portugal to continue its grip on Africa. Over £300m is invested, bringing the high profits ensured by cheap black labour to British companies and giving much needed taxation revenue to augment Portugal's ever spiralling defence budget.

The End the Alliance Campaign aims to shatter the public relations exercise being carried out by the two governments in their 600th anniversary celebrations. A 2 day national conference on 'Revolution in the Portguese Colonies' is being held at Manchester University Student's Union, 23-24 June. Marcelino dos Santos, will be addressing the conference telling of the work being done in the areas liberated from Portuguese control, to bring education and health facilities where none had existed before.

FRELIMO leader Marcelino dos Santos, coming to Manchester June 23.

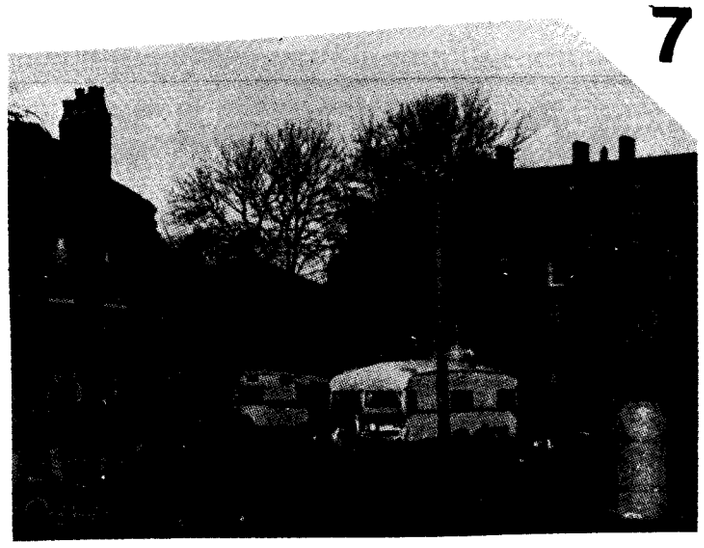
Frelimo's leader will be addressing a mass meeting in Houldsworth Hall on June 22nd at 8.00pm, along with leading figures from the north west. The people of Manchester are being invited to attend so that the true nature of the Alliance may be shown.

For further deatils contact:
The Convener,
End the Alliance Campaign,
c/o Welfare Office,
Student's Union,
Oxford Rd,
Manchester I4.

Bob's man gets it

THE CHOICE of George Ogden as chief executive to the new Greater Manchester Metropolitan County Council is widely held to be a straight political appointment. Ogden has always got on well with Sir Robert Thomas, the antidiluvian 71 year old Labour leader. For it was Sir Robert himself who chaired the policy committee which appointed him. On the vote, all the Labour members of the committee who made up a majority went for Ogden.

So Sir Robert, described in a local organ as one of the most powerful men in Britain , got his man, even though he did balls up his own election to council chairman. To the astonishment of all present at that first august meeting, the ageing Sir Robert announced that he was happy to accept the post of chairman to the "city council." Hadn't anyone told him about local government reorganisation? It's now called the GMMC, Bobby boy.



Gypsy fight continued

THE GYPSIES fighting for a permanent site in Salford have won a temporary reprieve after the Corporation's vicious evictions and harrassment. Since May 17 they have been unmolested on a site in Cross Street with the Corporation apparently waiting for the results of their application to be exempted from providing a proper site.

If Salford is exempted, and there's no real reason why it should be, it will have got rid of the gypsies with a policy of law-breaking, brute force and deception. The first eviction on April 19 from West Bank Street was claimed to be a response to a written request by the man who leased the land from the Corporation. This was told to the gypsies by the town clerk Mr Clarke. He was lying. The written request came from a private landlord Mr. Bernard Sloane, who owned part of the site. Mr. Sloane later withdrew it as he was, in fact, collecting a rent of £3 per trailer per week from the gypsies.

After the gypsies were refused an injunction in the High Court on May 8 to stop Salford evicting them, Mr Sloane had a change of mind and told them to get off his land within 24 hours. At the time Mr Sloane was a frightened man. He claimed to have had a phone call threatening his life. Meanwhile local residents, who had complained about the gypsies, agreed to sign a petition calling on the Corporation to provide a permanent site as it is required to do under the Caravan Sites Act of 1968.

On May 14 the 13 families were evicted from the land on Regent Road by a squad of corporation workmen and about 20 police. The Corporation then proceeded , quite illegally , to dump rubbish on Mr Sloane's land. They stopped after a phone call from MP Frank Allaun. Mr Sloane, reassurred that the gypsies didn't want to cause any trouble, also gave a note to a member of the Manchester gypsy liason group which withdrew authorisation from Salford to evict if the gypsies returned. Mr Sloane has been told, however, that if he allows the gypsies to return he will be prosecuted under the public health and nuisance acts, the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and a 1927 Salford by-law on trespass. But arrangements have been made for Mr Sloane to lease the land to Mr Hughie Smith, the northern gypsy council representative. Mr. Smith has agreed to take responsibility for any alleged breaches of law.

After the eviction, the gypsies moved to North Phoebe Street and on May 17 the bailiffs and the police moved in again early in the morning.

Many of the kids were still not dressed but that didn't deter Salford's bailiffs. One boy, Johnny Doran, aged 9, had his head split open when he was dragged along by a trailer. He was taken to hospital and had several stitches. One of the trailers was also damaged and the Corporation has refused to pay the cost. Salford claims that he has provided enough sites in the town for caravans. Most of them, however, are for the fairground people and gypsies are not allowed on the private sites. As in Stockport, Manchester and other towns, Salford is merely trying to get shot of the problem by kicking the travellers out.

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It will test the capacity of the Lungs, as accurately as a $50.00 lung testing machine. NOTHING LIKE IT; EVERYBODY BUYS IT. More than one half of the human family are troubled, with some kind of Lung Disease, a large portion of which is caused by a lack of Regular and proper exercise of the Lungs. People soon tire of nauseating medicine but they never tire of healthful exercise mixed with fun and amusement. Our Lung Expander stimulates friendly contests among old and young alike, and there is a great deal of fun in deciding who has the strongest lungs. We have made the price so low that every family can afford to have one. The Expander is made of metal, handsomely decorated, and is operated by blowing through a rubber tube, as per cut. We want to introduce our Lung Expander into every part of the United States at once. Special Offer. During the month of December and January, we will send Samples by Mail to any Part of the country, securely packed in a strong box. POSTAGE PAID UPON RECEIPT OF 39c. Stamps taken. McNEIL & CO., Box 283, 21 Tyron Row, N.Y.

DON'T MARRY without consulting Dr. Anderson, Masonic Temple, P. 5. Chicago. He cures organic weakness by entirely new and scientific methods; state conditions and send for free book

A Minister's Story.

I expect to be believed in all I am about to say. I write for the good of others. I was long troubled with a severe Bladder and

Kidney Disorder,

and painful gravel deposits. I used Dr. Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, and now I want to make known the good it has done me. The disease has relaxed its hold, and I look forward to spending the balance of my life free from bodily torture, and with a heart grateful for the medicine which affords me so pleasant a prospect.—Rev. S. C. CHANDLER, Lebanon Springs, N. Y. All druggists. $1; 6 for $5.

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Send 2-cent stamp to Dr. Kennedy, Rondout, N. Y., for illustrated book how to cure Kidney, Liver and Blood Disorders. Mention this paper.

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W. H. SNELL, Box 901, Kalamazoo, Michigan

The papers had a field day with the Monopolies Commission Report on Roche and its 'excessive and unjustified profits' on Librium and Valium. The Commission showed that although Roche claimed profits of £3m out of the NHS, its profits were in fact £24m. If Roche ultimately accepts the price cuts demanded by Sir Keith Joseph, it will save the NHS a staggering £10,000 a day.

What the papers missed in their patriotic eagerness to bash the devious Swiss was that Roche may be the sugar coated daddy of all drug firms but in its profits and methods it is no different to any of the British drug companies. As the Sainsbury Report into drug firms put it in 1967: "The existing conditions under which medicines are supplied to the NHS are not such as to ensure that drug prices and profits are reasonable". The Commission found that the cost of buying drugs for the NHS "had been inflated by excessive prices to the extent of several millions of £s".

It isn't only the papers that have shown patriotic fervour in having a go at the Swiss. The US Department of Justice have sent a 133 page questionnaire to Beechams asking them numerous questions about money spent on advertising, research and promotions. The British government has told Beechams not to answer. When Roche refused to supply similar information it was accused of "excessive secrecy". The information is needed by the Justice Dept. to bring an anti-monopoly suit against Beechams and its US licencee, Bristol Myers.

British exports of drugs are worth £160m. Six out of the top ten drug firms in the states are now British, Beechams being fourth largest. It's hardly surprising that the British government would not want to upset such a devastating export drive, the balance of payments problem being what it is.

Just as prices are protected abroad so they are protected here. ICI's heart drug, Inderal sells here at 60 times its Italian price.

So it's one rule for Beechams and British firms and another for Roche and any foreign firm. The loser remains the same: the sick who pay through the nose to keep the shareholders happy.

The Department of Health is one of the largest drug purchasers and in theory could exert some bargaining power to lever drug firms into reducing their prices. In fact it doesn't. It has no control over what GPs prescribe and ultimately will not tackle the firms. Oddly, the only politician ever to seriously fight the drug firms, was Enoch Powell.

Drug companies ruthlessly exploit the Patents Law to protect the high prices of their products. The wily Powell, rumoured to be one of the few recent Cabinet Ministers to actually use the NHS, found that under section 46 of the Act he could ignore the patent 'for the use of the crown'. He took on the US firms Pfizer, Lederle, Cyanamid, Squibb and Aspro-Nicholas, all of whom were selling tetracycline to the NHS at the same price - £64.15 per 1,000. Powell cooly put out tenders for the supply of the drug to the NHS. The US firms simultaneously reduced their prices to £54.62 for 1,000 tablets. The tenders were won by Italian and Dutch firms. Price - £25 per 1,000. The NHS saved £1m in a year. Pfizers took Powell to court and lost. It was then discovered that Pfizers and Cyanamid had been involved in an international price fixing conspiracy. They were both found guilty under the US monopoly laws in 1967.

> "Naturally enough for a company the size of Beechams the year brought its problems. The pharmaceutical side of the business, including proprietary medecines, was clearly not helped by the very low level of winter sickness throughout the Northern hemisphere."
> Beechams Chairman, 1972 Annual Report.

The excessive profits of

LS

ITS

drug firms were first brought to the public's notice in 1961. A Public Accounts Committee enquiry showed that 8 British subsidiaries of US firms were making an annual profit of 73%.

A few years later Dr Montague Phillips, a co-discoverer of one of the first antibiotics against pneumonia further blew the lid off drug profits. In an article in the People he listed more than a dozen of some of the most commonly used NHS drugs, showing the cost of production and profit. His conclusion was staggering: 'According to my figures the lowest profit is 320% and the highest 5,000%'. The 5,000% profit was Librium: basic cost 4/- for 1,000 tablets, cost to the NHS £10 a 1,000. British firms don't mind such profits. Caporin made by Glaxo cost 1/- a tablet to make. Cost to the NHS, £1 a tablet. Return 2,000%.

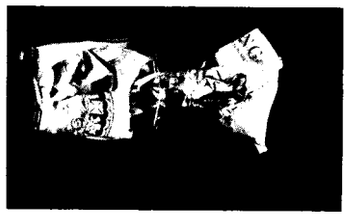
> During the appeal hearings Roche listed 20 British drugs which make higher profits than their tranquilisers. Included were Glaxo's Betnovate for rashes, Beecham's Penbritin, ICI's Inderal, Roussels Mandrax and Fison's Intal asthma drug which ROCHE says has the biggest profit of them all.

The drug firms spend huge sums of money on public relations, more in fact than any other industry. Their busy PR men and their shiny briefcases stuffed with free samples, continually push this line to justify high profits: drug production and research is a costly affair and big profits are needed to finance the research which gives us all the wonderful little pills which keep us so healthy. They argue that the successful drugs pay for themselves but there are many failures and huge profits are needed to pay for these.

This claim is false for two reasons.

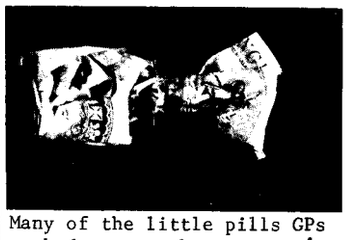
* Beechams only spent £4m on research out of £13.4m profit. Glaxo only spent £5m out of £22m profit.
* Much research is taken up producing variations on drugs already marketed.

The amount of duplication is scarcely believable. There are 130 antibiotics, 31 of which are simple derivatives of the same drug, tetracycline.



The drug firms keep themselves alive on planned obsolescence. Just as we have new soap powders every year, where the only thing new is the packet, so we have new drugs every year. The list of similar or identical drugs grows longer every year. As the President of Merck, a big US drug combine, John Cooner put it: "As in other industries our driving force is profit. But unlike other industries the single most effective way to earn those profits is by making existing products obsolete, including our own".

It is not surprising that US doctors are expected to find their way through a maze of over 300 new drugs every year. And British dcotors aren't let off much lighter by our own drug companies. Thankfully this kind of wasteful repetition is now slowing down.
The drug industry often says: forget our profits, just think of the money we save the taxpayer every year by having all these pills. Yes, the taxpayer is saving money but as a member of the Sainsbury Committee put it:"Should we pay motor manufacturers the value of the time saved by travelling faster by car than by horseback?"



Many of the little pills GPs push down our throats aren't much good. In 1971 the US Food and Drugs Administration investigated 2,000 drugs. They found that only 39% of them were 'effective'. 60% of claims for the drugs were without foundation. Many of the drugs named were among the most popular brands.

And just in case the British dealers get smug - a survey in the 60's showed that over ⅓ of British drugs were 'Undesirable'. Less than 3 out of 5 drugs we take were found to be effective.

WEAK Sufferers from Self Abuse, Lost Manhood, Emissions, Nondevelopment, &c. Send for free pkge. of wonderful **Mormon Tablets** give new **vigor**, life and strength to sexual organs, trial pkge. **free**. U.S. REMEDY CO., 2 Lafayette St., N.Y.

Address, DR. S. B. COLLINS, La Porte, Indiana.

LADIES Knight's (*English*) Steel and Pennyroyal Pills are safe, effectual and the only genuine. Sent to any address on receipt of $1.00 in stamps by ALFRED C. KNIGHT, Druggist, 3300 State St. Chicago, Ill.

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Thoroughly cleanses the teeth and purifies the breath. Absolutely pure and harmless. Put up in metal boxes with **Patent Extension Measuring Tube.** 25 cts.
AN ELEGANT TOILET LUXURY.
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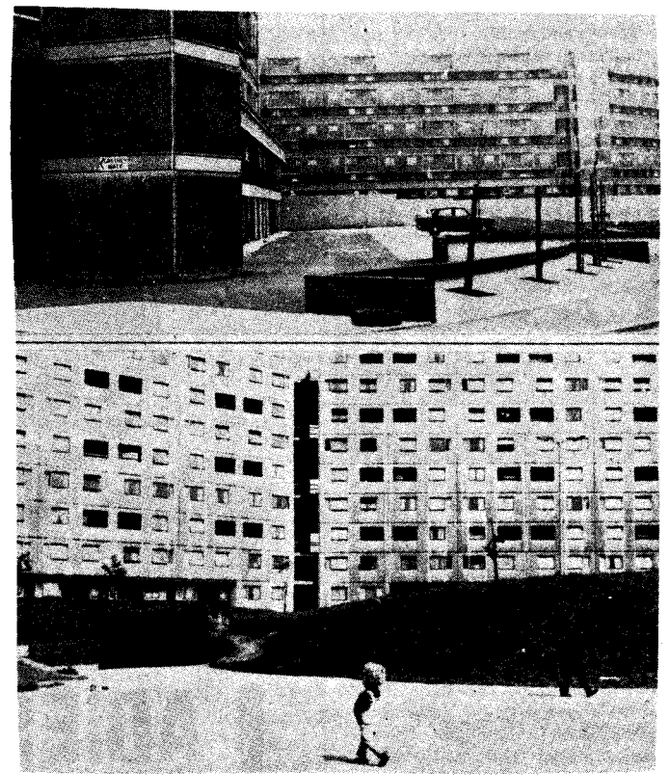
TO WEAK MEN suffering from the effects of youthful errors, early decay, lost manhood, etc. I will send a valuable treatise (sealed) containing full particulars for home cure, free of charge. Address Prof. F. C. FOWLER, Moodus, Conn.

New slums for old



They may look O.K. — just try living in them!

The new Moss Side District Centre is rapidly becoming just as delapidated as the old terrace slums that it was supposed to replace. And the blame for the incredibly poor state of repair must rest squarely with Manchester Corporation.

The catalogue of tenants' complaints include shoddy workmanship , cheap materials used by contractors, an inefficient maintenance service, persistent trouble with rats and other vermin, lifts that keep breaking down, poor lighting in some rooms, unstable floors ... the list could go on.

These complaints first came to light when people moved into the first block of flats in Lingbeck Crescent in March 1971. The same problems occurred when people moved into the second one Gretney Walk in January last year. Yet is only now in Arnesby Crescent that the Corporation has made any attempt to rectify the faults before people are moved into their new flats. For the tenants in Lingbeck and Gretney , however, the problems remain. Indeed, in an internal memo from city architect Besant Roberts to the town clerk Ogden last June, Roberts said that the "contractor is achieving a reasonable standard." This is simply untrue. Last month I visited one flat in Gretney- described by the tenants as one of the better ones - and only a week before large areas of the walls had been re-plastered. Cupboard doors were twisted; the hot water system was faulty; the floor in the front room, which tended to sink up to two inches, had just been mended.

Even these repairs had been done badly. The memo was the result of a petition from the tenants. In another memo to the medical officer of health, Mr E. Foskett, the chief public health inspector, admitted that "because of constructional defects it was possible for mice infestations to spread throughout the entire blocks."

One of the main reasons for the lack of maintenance in making good the bad workmanship was a cock-up in the direct works department. It was more than 18 months before the city architect officially passed responsibility for the blocks over to the direct works as a result.

The Director of Works admiited that "the standard of finish is poor," in direct contradiction to the opinion of the city architect. He added: "The maintenance requirement on this estate will be heavy and generally in excess of that on other estates."

The Tenants' Association is still trying to get the work speeded up but with little success. Meanwhile the rents go up for homes that in many respects are little better than the ones they left behind.

Frank Taylor: M.P.

MANY PEOPLE in Moss Side are beginning to wonder if their MP Frank Taylor is still alive and well. Some, who might make the effort, havn't seen him for three years. And his letters to tenants are often signed by his secretary "in his absence."

The last appearance for which Mr. Taylor is well remembered was when he addressed a meeting on Alexander Road those three years ago. He told the crowd that he knew of 17 Pakistanis living in the same house not half a mile away. He refused to take anyone to see them.

One of Mr. Taylor's most recent contributions to parliamentary debate, however, happened last year. He asked the Leader of the House whether mice were allowed into the Members' dining room unaccompanied by an MP.

Tenants in the new Moss Side District Centre, plagued by rats, mice and other vermin ever since they moved in, asked for help from their Westminster rat-catcher. Mr. Taylor, via his secretary, replied that he was more seriously concerned about "Communist infiltration into this country." But he would do what he could.

That was precious little. The rats are still rampant at the Dictrict Centre. Manchester Corporation did attempt to get rid of them by putting down some alleged rat poison. Three toddlers promptly ate it and were rushed to hospital. It was then discovered that the poison was totally useless at temperatures over 60 F. The flats at the centre are set at a steady 70 F.

All of which is not really very surprising. The two main points of Mr Taylor's declared policies are control of immigration (ie blacks) and "bring back the birch." And what's a few rats when you're busy chasing reds under the bed?

Frank Taylor: Businessman

IT IS hardly surprising that Frank Taylor isn't a familiar figure round the back streets of Moss Side.
For a start he is the principal of two firms of chartered accountants based in Wimbledon and the City of London - only a few convenient yards from his club, the House of Commons. All this seems a long way from Moss Side, as does his thirty acres of lush Surrey sod where he grows things.

On top of all that busy Mr Taylor is also a director of three other companies.

In his time Mr Taylor has not shirked his government responsibilities. In 1942 he was finance director to the Ministry of Food. Two years later he became the overseas financial War Transport.

Since entering the Commons in 1961, noone can say that Mr Taylor has not been active. In 1966 he became treasurer of the Parliamentary Flying Club.

Extract from the Manchester telephone directory:
Taylor, Frank, MP -
Office 30 Worple Rd, London SW19 01 947 0141
Res 25 Craven St, London WC2 01 606 9485

Community playgroups

We are having a practical session on arts and crafts in the playgroup at 8pm on Thursday June 28 in St Aidan's Rectory, Bosworth Street, Beswick. Bring your own egg boxes, yoghurt cartoons etc. Everyone welcome.
Physically handicapped and able-bodied pre-school summer playschool from July 31 to August 28 needs volunteers. Ardwick. Expenses paid. Contact for both Sue Owen 228 2111 or Gordon Blakely 834

FOOT NOTES

ABOUT 75% of our children suffer from some foot abnormality & it's largely due to ill fitting shoes. Parents are not to blame. The reason is twofold: only 25% of children's shoes are made in more than one width fitting & very few shops stock an adequate range of them. Many shops don't even stock a good range of half sizes. About 100 companies manufacture children's shoes but only 3 - Clarks, Norvic and Start-rite - make width fittings on a large scale and, contrary to common belief, even they don't make them in all styles. Standard designs, like school shoes/ sandals, are almost always multi-width but more fashionable designs,(from size 11 infants), that might only last a couple of seasons, are invariably made in only one or two widths and the shoes tend to be more expensive. Reputation guarantees the sale.

Profits

Even the Big 3 therefore are prepared to make a fast buck out of fashion conscious 6 year olds. The Children's Foot Health Register accused the Footwear Industry as a whole of concerning itself with "the profitable selling of children's shoes without sufficient regard for the degree of responsibility which it has for foot health".

Shops don't sell width fittings because there's no profit in it. The stock takes up far more room, ties up more capital and the shoes are less commercial - they are less fashionable and higher priced. On average they tend to cost about £1 more. Many shops don't like handling children's shoes at all - they just stock them to draw in mothers.

Size	Price (Width fittings)	Price (Non-width fittings)
2-6½	1.75-2.70	1.00 upward
7-10½	2.40-2.99	1.60 "
11-1½	3.10-4.00	2.00 "
2-5	4.00-5.50	2.50 "

(All prices are approximate).

Why is proper fitting so important?

Our bunions, corns, flat-feet, foot strain, clawed/ hammer toes, headaches and even sciatica can be the result of ill fitting shoes in childhood. Infant feet are very soft and malleable & remain so for many years. Distortion of these delicate joints is often painless but can result in ugly malformed feet & painful disorders later.

Children's feet grow fast but in spurts so they need regular checking. Shoes for 1-4 year olds will fit on average for up to 3 months & 5-10 year olds for up to 6 months but there's no hard and fast rule.

Wrong length, wrong width, high heels (like platform shoes), pointed toes & sloppy inadequate fastenings are all harmful if worn regularly. Old or second hand shoes should therefore never be worn but many families can't afford new footwear, let alone proper fittings. They are only concerned with putting shoes on the childs feet. So is Social Security.

Shops that Don't Stock Kids Shoes at all

1. Bally(King St)
2. Clifford Turner(KingSt)
3. Derbers(Market St)
4. Dolcis(66 Market St)*
5. T.Hinde(King St)
6. Humpage Vernon(St.Anns St)
7. A.Jones(King St)
8. K Shoes (Deansgate)
9. Lotus (King St)
10. Manfield(Deansgate)*
11. Manfield(Market St)*
12. Roland Keith(Albert Sq)
13. Russell & Bromley(St.Anns)
14. Shoe Cellar(Cannon St)
15. Timpson(Deansgate)
16. W.Mason(Mosley St)

Shops That stock a few width fittings

1. Barratts(Piccadilly)
2. Timpson(Market St)

Shops that stock kids shoes but not in width fittings

1. Bata(Oldham St)
2. Bata(Mosley St)
3. British Home Stores
4. Casson(Market Centre)
5. Dolcis(124 Market St)*
6. Freeman,Hardy,Willis * (Oldham St)
7. Ian Harvey(Market Centre)
8. Littlewoods
9. Marks & Spencer
10. Ravel(Oldham St)
11. Saxone(Market St)*
12. Saxone(Oldham St)*
13. True Form(Market [illegible])*
14. Woolworths

Shops that give GOOD service

1. Debenhams
2. Lewis's
3. J.Edwards(Deansgate)
4. Kendals
5. Norvic(Oldham St)

* British Shoe Corporation outlets (BSC controls about 25% of British shoe shops).

S.S. can make a discretionary award for shoes, basically if the Visiting Officer recommends it. The amount, between £1.60 & £3.00, depending on the child's age, is obviously not intended to buy width fitting shoes. S.S. themselves admit: "we're not concerned with refinements like that". It's the same old story. The State will pay huge amounts on remedies but not on prevention. Meanwhile the poor must take the risks.

Heavy government subsidy for width fitting shoes is essential if mass foot care is to be a reality.

Manchester Service

The Children's Foot Health Register publishes a list of shops that undertake to provide certain minimum standards:- measure all feet, employ staff capable of fitting shoes properly at the time of sale, & stock an adequate range of shoes in half sizes & 3 widths. Only 6 such shops are listed for Manchester: Clifford Turner (Prestwich), Debenhams (Mkt St), J.J.Kelly(Didsbury), Norvic(Oldham St), Tyson (Cheetham Hill Rd) and Woodall(Burton Rd). 3 others were found, on Freep's investigation, to provide a good service but for admin. reasons these were not put on the Register.

To save your shoe leather, Freep [illegible]wn survey of the City Cent[illegible] service is printed bel[illegible].

City centre

Only 14% of stores and shoe shops in the centre of Manchester can provide a proper service for our children's foot care. Freep could only find 7 shops that stock width fitting shoes at all. Local shops are less able to stock width fittings (because of space & cost), so the overall percentage for M/C is likely to be very much lower.

Noticeably the high class salons on fashionable King St/St.Anns St are among those shops that don't stock children's shoes at all.

The material for this article was provided by the Children's Foot & Health Register, the Munro Report

PAULA CARSON

ADS & INFO

COUNTRY HOUSE

A community of 10 adults and 8 kids living in a big country house in Scotland are offering facilities to radical groups for workshops, conferences, holidays and having a good time. Definite plans for this summer are Women's Liberation Sept 1 - 8, alternative technology Aug 11 - 18, organic gardening Aug 25 - Sept 1. They can accommodate up to 50 people, run a creche and or playgroup, cook 'delicious' food and co-ordinate things like travel, entertainment, dates, numbers etc. The cost is roughly £2 a day per person which sounds reasonable. For more details write Laurieston Hall, Castle Douglas, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland DG7 2NB or phone Laurieston 275.

CLAIMANTS

CLAIMANTS UNION meets every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1.30 to 4.0pm at Heatherbank House, 400 Moss Lane East. 226 1677.

CONFERENCES

MORE POWER To The People - National Conference: June 9 -10 at Manchester University Business School. Free to all but likely to be more applicants than seats so book now. Designed for all community organisations - Claimants' Unions, Shelter, Squatters, Tenants' Assocs, Child Poverty etc., discussion will revolve round the mounting crises & hardships threatening urban areas. Details from Conference Secretary, More Power to the People, 44 Earlham St London WC2H 9LA.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Association of Community Workers: June 8. 10.30am - Central Library Theatre,Manchester: "The Neighbourhood & The Future" led by Dr.William Hampton. Afternoon: special subject groups in the Town Hall.

ACW advise & support playgroups, tenants' assocs, volunteer schemes & other community groups, & promote co-operation between different agencies in planning, education & social work. This AGM is crucial for the association as there are motions coming up that would radically re-shape it from a professional association to a more open kind of forum. Anyone can go but the Fee is £2.50 (£1.50 for full time students)-including lunch & afternoon tea. Book in advance. Details from Peter Baldock, Mchr Council of Social Services, 834 2591: Paul Edwards, Mchr Social Services Dept., 228 2111.

GRASS ROOTS

GRASS ROOTS have moved to 100 Oxford Rd, AllSaints. Books in stock: Body Politic 60p, Floodgates of Anarchy by Albert Maelzer and Stuart Christie 35p, Gay News 15p, Penguin NCCL Guide 50p, Worlds in collision by Velikovsky 60p AND MANY MANY MORE.

ANY OFFERS

Seats available on board of multi national company. Book now to avoid disappointment. Good pay and holiday prospects. Salary paid into tax haven of own choice.

PROP

PROP demonstration outside Strangeways Nick at Ipm on June 9. Details from N. Clinton, II Chataway Road, Mchr.8.

STOP. LINE ENDS

END OF THE LINE

The above restaurant is seeking full or part-time staff - waiters, waitresses & cleaners. Easy work, enjoyable atmosphere. No experience necessary but big smile essential.

Pluto Press

unit 10 Spencer Court
7 Chalcot Road
London NW1 8LH
telephone 01·722 0141

New titles to be published in June:

HIDDEN FROM HISTORY 300 years of women's oppression and the fight against it. by Sheila Rowbotham. £1.50 paperback. £3.30 hard. 15p for post.

THE EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN by Werner Thönnessen the rise and decline of the women's movement in Germany 1863-1933. Trans from the German by Joris de Bres. £1.50 paper. £3.75 hard.

TURKEY: torture and political persecution by Jane Cousins. £1.50 paper.

Coming shortly: HAZARDS, a worker's guide to health and safety showing how occupational hazards can be identified and tackled in a systematic way when the workers are organised for safety.

INSIDE STORY

INSIDE STORY No.9, 20p from 3 Belmont Rd, London SW4. Has more on the spies for peace & "How the media fought Nixon's war".

It's gotta be the end....

SPECIALITY AMERICAN

END OF THE LINE

EATING HOUSE

14 Oxford Road, Manchester, England.

USA

USA by John Dos Passos. Penguin reissue, £I.35.

An unsung masterpiece, USA is Dos Passos at his most bitingly militant. A magnificent trilogy covering the history and nature of America from the turn of the century to the mid 30's, in which he exposes the vices of big businesss and commercialism, outlines the struggles of labour and the unions and introduces a list of characters ranging from hobos to the President. All done in his now famous 'documentary' style which uses a pastiche of lyricism, newspaper cuttings and dynamically realist narrative. The sheer bulk of the

book looks intimidating, but it is well worth perseverance to enjoy the highest achievement of a novelist who contends strongly for the title of greatest US novelist of the twentieth century.

JON ELIOT.

Revolution

STRATEGY FOR REVOLUTION by Regis Debray. Penguin 50p.

This collection of essays, first published in English 3 years ago, bring together some of Debray's most important contributions to the Latin American revolution, before his arrest in 1967. They were sparked off by a visit to Cuba shortly after Castro's revolution. Unlike his rather remote "Revolution in the Revolution" which dwelt on the practical problems of guerilla warfare, the two main essays here show the real bredth of Debray's political analysis. Since Debray is also a first class journalist, both the theory and the historic accounts are very readable.

A life in the day of

LENNON REMEMBERS by Jann Wenner. Penguin 40p.
For all those pop historians whose back numbers of Rolling Stone are now a bit battered, here is a de-luxe edition of the infamous Jann Wenner interviews with John Lennon.
These are the interviews when Lennon smashed images: the wholesomeness of the Beatles, the sweetness of the lovely Paul McCartney & the oh so deep meanings of Sargeant Pepper all went by the board. Not for nothing does Lennon enthusiastically quote Allen Klein's Xmas card:'Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil, because I am the biggest bastard in the valley!

FRANK MUNROE

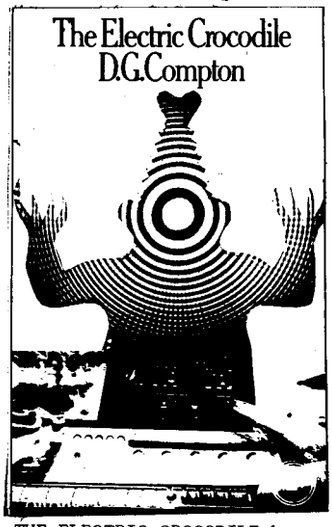
Good stuff

DYLAN. 50p.
At last a well produced, cheap book of Dylan's

lyrics has come on the market. Tastefully produced with nice illustrations, it's on sale in all the best Manchester bookshops. What more could anybody want?

FRANK MUNROE

Technocratic secrecy



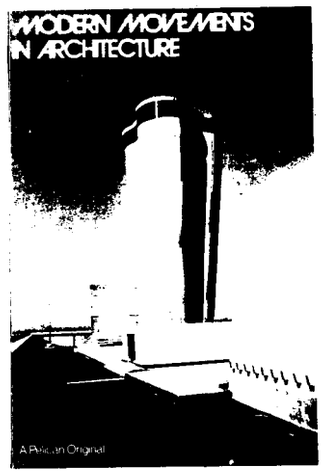
THE ELECTRIC CROCODILE by D.G.Compton.Arrow Books.35p.
Of great contemporary significance, this novel concerns the social & ethical problems arising from a new-found technique enabling man to predict, assess & control the future course of scientific change. The secret, technocratic use of this ability & the resulting conflict with concepts of freedom & democracy is the major theme. The plot deals with the role of individuals opposing the use of the technique. They are split between the liberal Civil Liberties Commission, which simply wishes to expose what is going on, & a radical group with a more direct & violent policy. These are portrayed far more effectively than the crude image of underground movements so characteristic of much science fiction. Questions of religious faith permeate the novel, which may not be to the readers taste but are clearly important to the author. It's well worth reading altnough both setting & action are portrayed in a very conventional fashion.

FRED STEWARD

Archimania

MODERN MOVEMENTS IN ARCHITECTURE by Charles Jencks. Pelican. £I.50.

Well, Charles Jenks has got together some of the best and some of the worst of megalomaniac architecture's contributions to our environment. From the tasteful idiosyncracies of Le



Corbusier to the crazed illogicalities of the archconman Bucky Fuller he tries to make some sense out of it all. Alexander seems to be the only one who thinks constructively and creatively. I get the feeling that it is all too much for the human mind to comprehend

SIMON NAIL

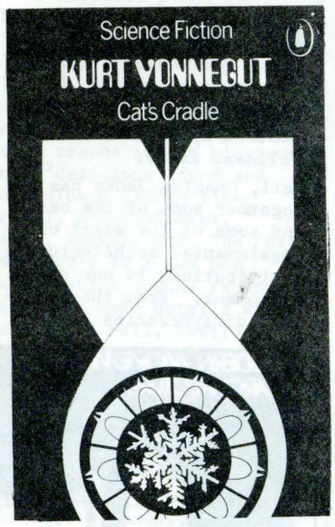
Racism

A PORTRAIT OF ENGLISH RACISM by Ann Dummett. Penguin 50p

Racism, says Ann Dummett, is widespread and deep-rooted in this country and she bases her judgement on four years as Oxford's first community relations officer. The book alternates, rather unsatisfactorily, between detailed incidents with unnecessary background padding, and an examination of the causes of English racism. The strength lies in the arguments and not in the illustrations. In particular she shows how the problem has been made worse by the news media who have fed people's prejudices by distortion and omission.

★ Master plan

CAT'S CRADLE by Kurt Vonnegut. Penguin. 30p.
A reprint of the well known classic. Vonnegut is a remarkable writer & produces quite unique works of science fiction. The audacity of novels like 'Cat's Cradle' & 'The Sirens of Titan' often leaves one uncertain as



to whether Vonnegut is simply exploiting the medium of SF or in fact sending it up. Cat's Cradle concerns the story of ice-nine, a deadly crystalline variant of ice with a melting point of II4.4F. The philosophy of the mythical Bokonon runs throughout the novel & expresses Vonnegut's favourite theme - the reduction of all individual will & action to a mere fragment of a far greater Plan. Anyone who has not yet read this incredible tale has definitely missed out.

FRED STEWARD

★ Super Starr

SPACE RANGER by Isaac Asimov New English Library. 30p. Originally published in I952, this is the Ist novel in a series devoted to the adventures of David Starr, member extraordinaire of Earth's all powerful Council of Science. Although bearing the distinctive features of an Asimov tale, it fails to reach the high standard of much of his work. The confinement of the action to the commonly used setting of Mars contrasts unfavourably with the galactic sweep that one has come to expect of Asimov's vision. The basic plot, which involves the foiling of some unknown Martian agency's attempt to create widespread poisoning on Earth, is neither tightly constructed nor very convincing. The final showdown, which should leave one breathless, is a disappointment. In spite of these criticisms, no Asimov fan will seriously contemplate missing the chance to read another of his stories. But for an introduction to Asimov, there are far better novels available.

FRED STEWARD

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Theatre

FORUM. Mat.details 437 9663
4 June, Eddie Thompson Trio 8pm.
11-16 June, The Dasilva Puppet Co.present Pinnocchio.
18 June, "Henry Cow" in Concert. 8pm.
20-23 June, One For The Pot, Brian Rix farce performed by the Orbit Theatre Co.
27-30 June, The Northern Dance Theatre presents Cindarella.
2-7 July, Ballets Minerva dance Alice in Wonderland & The Emperors New Clothes

LIBRARY THEATRE. Mat.details 236 7406. Evening perfs. 7.30pm.
Polytechnic Drama Group present:
5-9 June, Cherry Orchard by Anton Chekov.
12-16 June, Sweeney Todd by George Dibdin Pitt.
19-23 June, La Ronde by Arthur Schnitzler.
26-30 June, Love on the Dole by Walter Greenwood.

PALACE THEATRE. Mat.details 236 0184.
4-9 June, Sadlers Wells Opera Company.
18-23 June, National Ballet of the Philippines. 7.30.

STABLES
5-9 June, Loophole present Slag by David Hare,author of television play 'The Judge's Daughter'.

UNIVERSITY THEATRE.273 5696.
Until 9 June, The Manchester United Show by Steve Grant presented by Contact. 7.30 nightly.
11-23 June, Experimental Fringe Theatre season, incl.Ken Campbell's new Road Show & The Brighton Combination. 7.30 nightly + lunch & late night show
19-20 June, Contact play The Dumb Waiter by Harold Pinter, in the Stephen Joseph Studio.

Films

ABC Deansgate. 3-9 June inc
1. England Made Me "AA"
2. Lady Sings the Blues "X"

ABC Ardwick
The Life & Times of Judg Roy Bean "A"

GAUMONT, for season.
Lost Horizon "U"

NEW OXFORD, 3-9 June incl.
The Lovers "AA"

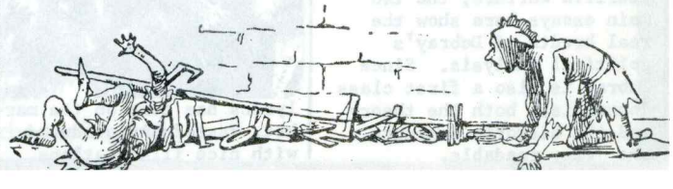
ODEON, 3-9 June incl.
Across 110th Street "X"

STUDIOS 1-5, 3-9 June incl.
1. King Boxer "X"/Superfly"
2. The Lustful Vicar "X"
3. Decameron Two "X"
4. Clockwork Orange "X"
5. Judge Roy Bean "A"

STUDIOS 6-9, 3-9 June incl.
6. Cabaret "X"
7. Eagle in a Cage /Charly
8. King Boxer/Superfly "X"
9. Clockwork Orange "X"

UNIT 4 - Hulme. 3-9 June in
1. Kes "U"
2. When 8 Bells Toll "A"
3. Shafts Big Score "X"
4. Red Sun "AA"

10-16 June incl.
1. Billy Jack "AA"/ Bonnie & Clyde "X"
2. Airport "A"
3. Borsellino "AA"/The Red Tent "U"
4. Spartacus "A"



Films

Rompers

DANISH DENTIST ON THE JOB X

Galloping female flesh is incidental to this Danish comedy, described in hand-outs as 'outrageously saucy', though it does provide some amusing light entertainment if you've got nothing else to do.

Nude ladies bounce around public places with naturalness but perhaps to the chagrin of female audiences even this film dares show no more of the gents than hairy legs and spotted underpants. What is the male afraid of - female disillusion.

Bean's bag

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE ROY BEAN A

Self-appointed Judge "You'll hang no matter what it says in the law book because I'm the law" Roy Bean, brilliantly played by Paul Newman, builds the thriving town of Vinegarroon from dust, peasants, prostitutes and criminals. Bean's motto is law and order and the glory of Lillie Langtry (Ava Gardner), his music hall heroine. Not only does Bean kill a drunk for shooting at Miss Langtry's picture on the grounds of "justifiable homicide" , but he also fines the dead man "52 dollars for lying around." Although fairly long and slow , this is an extremely good film, riddled with humour and outlandish sequences including a beer-swilling bear and a mad mean albino. Bean, finally ousted from his authoritarian position by the forces of progress, romantically rides out into the desert but returns 20 years later to save the town from capitalist exploitation and oil development. He sets fire to the town and it is returned to its desert origins.

As the film states, maybe this isn't how it was at the turn of the century, but it should have been. Was Roy Bean, with his home-made rules, authoritarianism and public hangings any worse than the evils of gangster-protected capitalism?

Sex fantasy

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SEX BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK. X

"This picture contains every funny idea I've had about sex including several that led to my divorce:" Woody Allen, director and star of the film. Based on the book by Dr. David Rueben, the film comprises 7 sketches with sub-titles like "Do Aphrodisiacs work" and "What are sex perverts." A rampaging giant tit is put on probation and finally donated to an orphanage; a man is forced to have intercourse with a six foot rye bread; a doctor commits sodomy with a sheep; a jester, trying to break open the Queen's chastity belt, quips, "With most grievous dispatch I will open the latch and get to her catch"; and a young wife's sexual hang-ups are cured by doing it in public. It could have been a very funny film but throw away lines are thrown away so fast even Bob Hope couldn't catch them. The film is largely disappointing except for the last sketch, "What happens during ejaculation?" Seen as a space launch, operator (Tony Randall) and switchboard (Burt Reynolds) are all set to blast off into the perfect sex act but one of the white-tailed sperm lining up in the tunnel (Woody Allen) is terrified of the whole idea: "What if he's masturbating, I'm liable to wind up on the ceiling."

Bloody awful

BLOOD MANIA X (Columbia)

This boring predictable 'thriller' based on a story by Peter Carpenter , who stars and co-directs, bears no relation to its commercial title. An unnecessary proportion of the film is devoted to tedious sexual exploits. Do yourself a favour - ignore this film.

Con

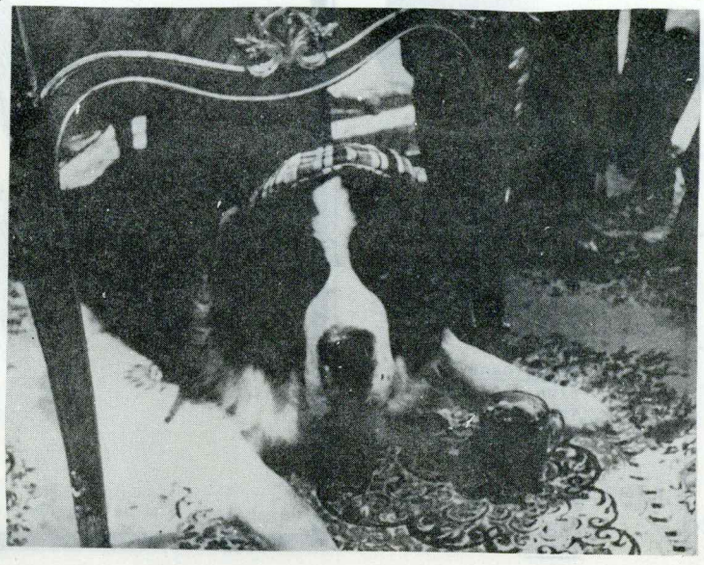
MAFIA X (Columbia.)

Obviously designed to attract the box office success of The Godfather, this appalling and badly dubbed production by Leopoldo Torre Nilsson compares unfavourably with a second rate 30's US gangster film. Kidnapping, murder and robbert accompany a sentimental Bonny and Clyde type love affair but no analysis is made of the Mafia as an organisation. This film is a con.

Rank

FATHER DEAR FATHER A (Rank)

This must rate as the most unfunny film to be made of a television comedy series. It lacks everything but an abundance of stereotypes- harassed father (Patrick Cargill); 2 rebel daughters (Natasha Pyne & Ann Holloway) Mrs.Mop; kindly nannie; a deaf, half daft priest;black couple & a milkman who always cops the trouble. The best part is collared by sheepdog Jo-Jo - he doesn't speak.



Bunkered

HITLER-THE LAST TEN DAYS "A"

ANYONE WHO saw the television production of Hitler's last 10 days in the bunker,which has already been repeated, will find this MGM film boringly similar, less claustrophobic and perhaps less terrifying. Alec Guinness said of his role as Hitler: "Behind the monster image there was a man, who had his emotional problems, but who could be tremendously charming & courteous & considerate". Although this aspect is over emphasised, Hitler is not glorified as Bernard Delfont claimed when he banned the film from his MGM-EMI cinema circuit.
Shown as a clean,personable, child loving man, Hitler celebrates his birthday and later, when he marries Eva Braun, cordially hands out cyanide capsules for mass suicide he'd discussed with his entourage. Attempts are made however, by means of brief newsreel clips, to balance the man against the criminal lunacy he represented. His last desperate attempt to save Berlin from occupation was to flood the sewers which contained thousands of injured: "I cannot at this historic moment be concerned with the welfare of civilians". A newsreel clip follows - of the bodies being carted out.
Most of this film is based on fact, particularly the eye witness account of Gerhard Boldt, but portraying Hitler as a rather 'nice guy', does tend to undermine the sinister and terrifying reality of his fascist regime. Will this commercial glut of Hitler now end?

Mob & cop

ACROSS 110th STREET "X" (United Artists)

White Mafia & the black Harlem gang operating under them, are incensed when 3 black dissidents rob & machine gun 5 of their men. The Mafia take their brutal revenge before the police can trace the 3 assasins. Meanwhile, back at the station, vicious captain (Anthony Quinn) & liberal lieutenant (Yaphet Kotto), who head the Harlem police, have their own personal black/white conflict to fight. They resolve it just in time for the final shoot out when the white cop's brutality meets the justice of a Mafioso bullet. That apart, the continuous racism & violence is fairly realistic.

PAULA CARSON

APEX STRIKES

Two local factories hit on equal pay

The women of the North West are on the move. The first major strike over Equal Pay has so far hit two local factories, Salford Electrical Instruments at Eccles & Heywood. After a secret ballot, men & women from APEX (the clerical workers union) started picketing both factories on 30 May. 90 came out at Eccles, where there are still some blacklegs, and 50 at Heywood which is solid.

Contrary to popular myth, it's possible for women to get more than the £1 + 4% increase allowed by the Counter Inflation Act. As a preliminary step towards equal pay by December 1975 for the 'same or broadly similar work', women are entitled to an increase of ⅓ the difference between their own and a man's wage.

Job evaluation

There lies the rub.
The management deny that any women do similar jobs to the men at either factory. The women don't agree and neither do the men who are out with them. As one of the picketing women said: "I do the same job. They just give the man a different title".
Naturally the management is worried. If they agreed to APEX's demands, the women would get an immediate increase of £2 - £3 per week.

A recent survey by the Dept. of Employment's Office of Manpower Economics showed that only one fifth of companies examined had either removed or agreed to end discriminatory pay scales. The Report went on: "Employers associations exert a crucial influence on the pace at which equal pay is introduced". How true. Several Employers' federations are circulating their members with advice on how to avoid equal pay disputes. Job evaluation, putting men & women in different sections and re-writing men's agreements for 'heavy work' and women's for 'light work' are only some of the suggestions.

With regard to clerical workers in engineering concerns, like SEI, the advice is to isolate 'these individuals, sections or departments by ensuring that no males are recruited into these fields ...thereby obviating the possibility of equal pay claims from these females'. Such a policy could threaten men's jobs as well as women's wages.

GEC's low wages

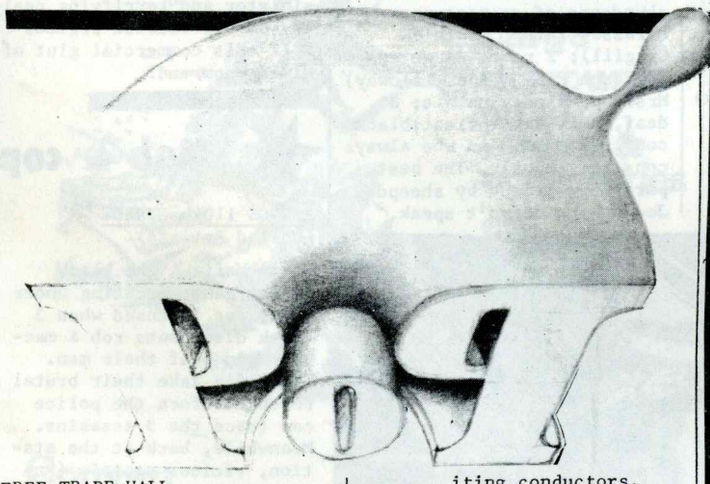
Salford Electrical Instruments is part of the multi-national GEC combine which makes its profits from low wages in South Africa and redundancy in Britain. Since GEC merged with AEI in 1967, redundancies have averaged 30 a day.

A similar equal pay claim at EE on the East Lancs Rd., Liverpool has already been settled. The management fear that if they meet the Eccles/Heywood claims too it would set a dangerous precedent for the rest of the GEC giant

In 1972, GEC made £46m profit, roughly £11 per week per employee. A £3 equal pay claim this year would hardly touch them. As one female picket said: 'They're just mean'.

A GRIM FAIRY TAIL

Once upon a time, a long time ago, before the revolution, in the days of lords and ladyfriends and green shield stamps, there was a beautiful young princess who loved horses. She loved horses so much that a wicked fairy godmother cast a spell which made her look like her favourite pets. And although she was such a sensitive princess that she could tell if there was a pee in her mattress, she was so incredibly ugly that no suitable suitor could be found for her among the randy young princelings of Europe, who were all her second cousins anyway. Her mother the queen, god bless her, was so distressed that she organised a competition to find a young man who loved horses as often as the princess, and the prize was to be the princess's hand in marriage, or wherever he wanted it. And the only young horse-lover who didn't make rude signs turned out to be a humble sausage-maker's son from Wilpshire, which overlooks Blackburn and is overlooked by everywhere else, who had failed his A-level geography and dropped out to join a pop group called the Queen's Dragons. And the young man who used dogs to kill foxes - kissed the princess in her blue BMW, and the queen increased her pocket money manyfold to £35,000 a year in spite of stage two, and they all lived happily ever after. Moral: those who pass their A-levels get their incomes frozen.



FREE TRADE HALL

June 5, The B Gees, 7.30pm.
" 6, Faust, 7.30pm.
" 7, David Bowie(sold out).
" 8, Laudon Wainwright the 3rd, 7.30pm.
" 9, The Sweet, 7.30pm.
" 10, Erich von Daniken lecture, 7.00pm.
" 11, Gladys Knight & The Pips, 8.15pm.
" 12, Halle Orchestra Proms. for 3 weeks with visiting conductors.
" 17, John McCloughlin & the Mahavishana Orchestra, 7.00pm.
" 21, Granada present best brass band of the yr plus 3 other bands.
" 24, The Spinners, 7.00pm
" 28, The Early Music Consort, 7.30pm.

July 1, Jack Benny, Susan Maughn & The New Faces, 2 houses.